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EDC 102

It is easy to see after reading chapters two and three in *Foundations of American Education* that the American education system has progressed massively since Colonial times and it will continue to evolve every single day.

It was interesting to read about early American school compared to modern American schools. According to chapter two, early schools had a strong emphasis on religion. Students were taught to read in order to read the Bible and understand its teachings. In the modern school systems, however, students that attend public schools are not preached to and are not taught to be religious. If a parent wants their child to attend a religious school, they will have to sent their child to a private school. Early schools, moreover, provided little to no education to women, people with special needs, and most minorities. Now, however, the federal government is working towards equal educational opportunities for everyone. In theory this means that no matter race, sex, religion, or background, all students will be given access to the same education.

Although the federal government has set up programs to support the idea of equal educational opportunities, it is easier said than done. This is hard to achieve because of issues with funding and lack of support. Also, government programs do not always work. For example, in theory No Child Left Behind is a good idea, however, it does not actually work. Every student is different and cannot all be grouped into one category. Another thing that I found interesting in the reading was its discussion of standardized testing. America places too big of an emphasis on testing. Teachers are expected to reach a certain quota with their students scores. If they do not meet requirements, the teachers are blamed. This, however, creates a less effective teacher.  Teachers should be able to teach and engage their students without the pressure to of having them perform well on tests. Moreover, not all school systems should be compared to one another, because not all school systems have the same resources. The American education system needs to change its perspective in order to become more effective.

After reading chapters two and three in the textbook, it is clear that the American education system has evolved massively since Colonial times. In order to become a more effective system, however, America will need to change its perspective.